

Genesis 41

March 4, 2018 – Rev. Rick Lyon

1. Joseph experienced God's delays.

Genesis 40:13-15 - "Within three days Pharaoh will...restore you to your place... Remember me when it's well with you, and please show kindness to me; and mention me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this place. For I was stolen away from the land of the Hebrews; and I've done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon."

Genesis 40:20-21 - It happened on the third day... that Pharaoh restored the chief butler to his butlership again.

Genesis 40:23 - Yet the chief butler didn't remember Joseph, but forgot him.

Psalm 105:17-18 - Joseph was sold as a slave. They bruised his feet with shackles, his neck was put in an iron collar.

“When God wants to make a mushroom, He does it overnight, but when He wants to make a giant oak, He takes a hundred years. Great souls are grown through struggles and storms and seasons of suffering. Be patient with the process.”

2. Joseph interpreted God's dreams.

1 Corinthians 4:7 - What do you have that you didn't receive? So if you received it, why do you boast as if you didn't receive it?

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3. Joseph experienced God's deliverance

1 Samuel 2:30 - The Lord says, "I will honor those who honor Me."

Three Lessons

Lesson #1 - God wants to use you right where you are.

Bob Deffinbaugh: *God brought the deliverance of His people not through Judah, from whom the Messiah would come, and not through Levi, through whom the priestly class would originate, but through Joseph, an administrator. I imagine that many in our day would've approached Joseph and said, "Joseph, you should go into full-time ministry."*

God didn't raise up a preacher or a priest, but an administrator to deliver His people from extinction. Beware of categorizing occupations in such a way as to make some more spiritual than others. Everyone is a full-time minister. Some are called to labor in one sphere while others are called to another.

Lesson #2 - Don't grow tired of doing what's right.

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Galatians 6:9 - Don't grow tired of doing good, for at just the right time we will reap, if we don't give up.

Lesson 3# - Have a massive view of God.

Ephesians 3:20 - God is able to do infinitely more than all that we ask or imagine.
